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Letter dated 5 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 4 February 2001 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning contracts for the Iraqi Meteorological and Seismological Authority under phase VII of the memorandum of understanding. Six contracts are involved, and have been placed on hold by the representative of the United States on the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990).

The Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs requests you to exert every effort with a view to lifting the holds placed on the aforementioned and other humanitarian contracts and gaining approval for payment from memorandum revenues of the dues owed by the Authority to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Al-Humaimidi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 5 February 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the many letters I have addressed to you concerning the practice of certain members of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) of placing on hold contracts concluded by Iraq pursuant to the memorandum of understanding signed by Iraq and the Secretariat of the United Nations on 20 May 1996.

On this occasion I should like to refer to the contracts concluded by the Iraqi Meteorological and Seismological Authority, part of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, under phase VII of the memorandum of understanding. Six contracts are involved (Nos. 701684, 701685, 701686, 701688, 701848 and 702370). They have been placed on hold by the representative of the United States on the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) on the pretext that there is a need to seek technical clarification or that some of the materials involved are covered by Security Council resolution 1051 (1996).

Most of the equipment currently owned by the Iraqi Meteorological and Seismological Authority is either unusable because of lack of maintenance and spare parts or has become completely outdated and incompatible with the technological developments that have taken place in the meteorological and seismological field. The situation is exacerbated by the Authority's inability to exchange relevant data: its membership of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been suspended for the past 10 years because it has not had access to the hard currency necessary to pay its annual dues and is therefore denied the exchange of data usual in the field.

The equipment for which the Authority has concluded contracts under phase VII of the memorandum of understanding is the normal equipment owned by every civil meteorological authority in the world and intended for civilian use. Advice may be sought from WMO, one of the specialized agencies in this field, as to the nature and purely civilian uses of this equipment.

In view of the foregoing, I request you to exert every effort with a view to lifting the holds placed on the aforementioned and other humanitarian contracts and gaining approval for payment from memorandum revenues of the dues owed by the Authority to WMO, which currently amount to more than 750,000 Swiss francs.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq